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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Anglo-Egyptian Sudan

DATE DISTR. 10 December 194

SUBJECT Leadership of the "Unity of the Nile Valley" Group

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A6a

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

1. The group known as "Unity of the Nile Valley" (unionist) is presently composed of the following parties and political factions, listed in order of their political importance: the Ashiqqa Party, the Unionist Party, the Unity of the Nile Valley Party, the Liberal-Unionist Party, the Sudan Graduates' General Congress, and the Khatmia sect. Because there is no broad basis for agreement among these parties, the division and rivalry within the group is great. Moreover, there is no leader who has been able to unite the various parties into an effective coalition.
2. The best-known and most important leaders, past and present, of the Ashiqqa Party, who are also active in the Graduates' Congress, are the following:
- Yahya Fadli, one of the founders of the Party and its Secretary-General until he was removed from office on 29 May 1948. He was considered formerly to be the most important Ashiqqa leader, and the man who very largely dictated party policy. He was also a member of the Sudanese Delegation sent to Cairo. In 1943 Fadli had resigned his post in the Sudan Government and started a small business in Khartoum.
 - Mahmud Fadli, brother of Yahya Fadli, Secretary-General of the Graduates' Congress and, until he was dismissed in May 1948, one of the most powerful leaders of the Ashiqqa Party. In 1946 he was called upon to become a member of the Sudanese Delegation to Cairo, and gave up a career as teacher to do so. Fadli was the editor of al-Ashiqqa when this paper began publication in May 1948.
 - Ismail Azhari, the nominal President of the Ashiqqa Party, as well as President of the Sudanese Delegation in Cairo. His influence on the Graduates' Congress is considerable; he represents this body in the Cairo delegation.
 - Muhammad Mur-el-Din, Vice-President of the Party. He was a member of the Cairo delegation and chief liaison official between the Ashiqqa Party and the Egyptian Government.
 - Ali Hamid, Assistant Secretary of the Graduates' Congress and previously a prominent member of the Ashiqqa Party. He was expelled from his position of leadership in the Party in May 1948.

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Auth: DDA REG 1763

Date: 1000-44y 1978

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- f. Khidr Omer, replaced Yahya Fadli as Secretary-General of the Party.
- g. Mubarrak Zarruk, replaced Mahmud Fadli as Secretary-General of the Graduates' Congress. He is a lawyer who has been active in the defense of accused unionists.
- h. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamza, replaced Ali Hamid as Assistant-Secretary of the Graduates' Congress.
- i. Ibrahim Mufti, Manager of the Graduates' Congress office in Cairo and a member of the Sudanese Delegation. He was formerly a member of the "Unity with Egypt" Delegation to the United Nations.

3. The leaders of the Unionist Party are as follows:

- a. Hamad Tawfiq, President.
- b. 'Abdullah Mirghani, Secretary-General.
- c. 'Abd-al-Munayn Hassaballa, Secretary of the Party's youth movement.
- d. Hasan Ziada, Treasurer of the Party.

4. The important leaders of the Unity of the Nile Valley Party are the following:

- a. Ali Bireir, representative of his party in the Sudan Delegation to Cairo and the bitter political rival of Ismail Azhari. He has spent more than twenty years in Cairo; his prestige in Egyptian political circles and in the Palace is unsurpassed by any other Sudanese in Cairo, including that of Azhari. His relations with the Ashiqqa Party and the Graduates' Congress have deteriorated, and he has had many disputes with the latter over the control of al-Sudan, organ of the Congress in Cairo.
- b. Dardiri Ahmad Ismail, President of the Party. He was a member of the Cairo Delegation and acted in a liaison capacity between the pro-unity parties. He is a lawyer by profession.

5. The leaders of the Liberal-Unionist Party are as follows:

- a. Fasan al-Tahir Zarruk, representative of the Party in the Cairo Delegation.
- b. Ahmad Muhammad Ali.
- c. Al-Tayab Muhammad Khair.

6. The following officials of Mirghani's Khatmia sect were (sic) politically active in behalf of the pro-unity parties:

- a. Gaafar Muhammad Abu Badr, Secretary of the Mirghanist Youth and an enthusiastic supporter of the unionist movement until August 1948, when he announced his resignation and applied for membership in the Union Party.
- b. Sheikh Ahmad 'Abdullah, who is the private secretary to Sayid Mirghani.

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